

*M. Newman*  
12/28/98



JAN:31891

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of: )  
Larry C. Wilkins ) Before the Examiner  
Serial No. 09/061,503 ) George L. Walton  
Filed April 16, 1998 ) Group Art Unit 3753  
BALL VALVE SEAL )  
REPLACEMENT APPARATUS ) December 11, 1998  
AND METHOD ) Our Ref. 4090-126

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on December 11, 1998

(Date of Deposit)

Joseph A. Naughton

Name of Registered Representative

*Joseph A. Naughton*  
Signature

December 11, 1998

Date of Signature

AMENDMENT AFTER FIRST OFFICE ACTION

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Official Action dated July 16, 1998, please enter the following amendments and remarks. Our check in the amount of \$190.00 is enclosed to cover a two month extension of time. Any additional necessary fees may be charged to Deposit Account No. 23-3030, but not to include payment of issue fees.

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

1. (Amended) With a ball valve assembly having: a valve body including an inlet face with a mounting flange and an inlet, and an outlet face with a mounting flange and an outlet, and a passageway therethrough from the inlet to the outlet, and a valve ball in the passageway and operable to close the passageway thereby dividing the passageway into an inlet passageway and an outlet passageway, and first and second seals engaging the valve ball at the outlet passageway and the inlet passageway, respectively, and a seal